

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-15, 21, 23-39 are currently pending. Claims 14, 15, 29-36 and 39 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-13, 21, 23-28, 37 and 38 will be pending. Entry of the amendment and reconsideration on the merits in view of the following comments are respectfully requested.

With respect to all amendments, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's withdrawal of all outstanding rejections with respect to claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 11-13, 21, 23-28, 37 and 38.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 14, 15, 29-36 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed.

Though Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's assertions, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 14, 15, 29-36 and 39 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. **03-1952** referencing docket no. **220022001610**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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